



Town of Arlington, MA

Summit III Results

On Tuesday, October 2 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Town Hall Auditorium, a third forum was held (Summit III) where residents and Town officials met. Participants were divided into six focus groups, representing the major functions of Town government, and were asked to review, add-to, and prioritize the list of ideas gathered from previous summits (see presentation here). The six major Town functions included were: Safety, Education, Public Works, Libraries & Human Services, Benefits, and Infrastructure.

The goal was to address the Town's long-range financial issues looking at ways to reduce costs and generate revenue.

The following is the results of this forum.

TOP PRIORITY ITEMS SAFETY

Results

- 1. Expand Services – Police Services, enforcement pro-active crime prevention**
- 2. Study : Expanding Services by having more paramedics and decreasing use of Armstrong versus reducing services and increasing use of Armstrong**
- 3. Increase efficiencies / Reduce costs –**
 - a. Regionalize Police / Fire Dispatch**
 - b. Police lockups**
 - c. More fire services**
- 4. Increase investment in:**
 - a. Parking enforcement – better equipment (electronic meters)**
 - b. More police, increase traffic enforcement**
 - c. Purchasing Quint fire trucks**
- 5. Revenue enhancement – providing additional paid parking (e.g. meters on Massachusetts Avenue) and higher parking fees**

TOP PRIORITY ITEMS EDUCATION

Results:

- 1. Reform Minuteman Tech**
- 2. Special Education – Out of District tuition and transportation back to town – out of school budget**
- 3. Increase state aid for public schools and special education**
- 4. Special Education – create attractive and magnet schools**
- 5. Special Education – more focus on third party reimbursements**
- 6. School building alternative uses**
- 7. Nurses teach health – increase nurses to full time in every school with 2 in Ottoson Middle School and High School.**
- 8. Curriculum reform – need and priority**
- 9. School purchasing – internal to Arlington and external with other Districts**

TOP PRIORITY ITEMS PUBLIC WORKS

Results:

- 1. Review and reorganize DPW for efficiency**
- 2. Pay-As-You-Throw**
- 3. Increase playing field user fees**
- 4. Regionalization of purchasing**
- 5. Transition out subsidy for water & sewer rates (10 years)**
- 6. Privatize grass maintenance (cemetery, etc.)**
- 7. Standardize contracts with other communities**
- 8. Standardize trash containers & use 1-man trucks**
- 9. Regionalization of road equipment (backhoes)**
- 10. Regionalization of trash pick-up (1 day whole town)**

**TOP PRIORITY ITEMS
LIBRAIRIES & HUMAN SERVICES**

Results:

- 1. Push for rental income at Fox Library**
- 2. Higher user fees for inoculations**
- 3. Move Fox to Gibbs as part of community center concept- sell Fox**
- 4. Allow businesses to use Library, Community Room for fee**
- 5. More user fees for needs based health services**
- 6. Increase fundraising for library, Council on Aging and youth services**
- 7. Human Services regionalization**
- 8. Regionalize software packages**
- 9. Explore effectiveness combination of school and library functions**
- 10. Explore effectiveness of merging the school nurses with the public health nurse in Health Department**
- 11. Increase advertising for rental of town special spaces**

TOP PRIORITY ITEMS BENEFITS

Results:

- 1. Group Insurance Commission**
- 2. Invest retirement funds in PRIT**
- 3. Implement and expand opt-out program for health insurance**
- 4. Increase retirement contribution for retirees under 65**
- 5. Provide option of 401K in place of the defined contribution plan
(would require legislative action)**
- 6. Wellness plan**

TOP PRIORITY ITEMS INFRASTRUCTURE

Results:

- 1. Utilize state DPU regulations to require utility companies to clean up after digging up our streets**
- 2. Regionalize dispatch**
- 3. Pay-as-you-throw**
- 4. Adopt Community Preservation Act**
- 5. Town Endowment Fund**
- 6. Enhance tourism**
- 7. Sell intellectual property**
- 8. Find space (a la Symmes) for national corporations to establish campuses (currently Google is looking in this area) or provide naming rights**
- 9. Eliminate second provider concept in mutual aid agreement**
- 10. Increase range of user fees**
- 11. Combine town's clerical/ support staff – single operations unit**